GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4202
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2000
FISCAL DEFICIT
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fiscal deficit of the Government has come down significantly at the end of first quarter i.e. April-June, 2000; and

(b) if so, the causes for the same and the manner in which the Government propose to maintain those causes apart from tapping other wasteful sources that drain the money unabated and unchecked use of the government transport, telephone, entertainment, overtime, travelling, furniture, paper and paper products etc.?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a) & (b) The fiscal deficit of the Central Government for the period April-June 2000 was Rs.25073 crorecompared with Rs.33512 crore during April-June 1999. The reduction in fiscal deficit during the current financial year reflects higher receipts as well as lesser non-plan expenditure. The fiscal situation is under constant review and appropriate measures, both on revenue and expenditure side are undertaken as and when necessary in the light of emerging fiscal situation. In order to effect economy in non-plan expenditure instructions are issued from time to time to all the Ministries/Departments, which include restrictions on the creation ofnew posts, review of vacant posts before they are filled up, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and on entertainment/hospitality expenses etc.